

REMARKS

The present amendment is prepared in accordance with the new revised requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is shown above showing the status of each claim. For current amendments, inserted material is underlined and deleted material has a line therethrough.

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claims 11-25 drawn to an invention unelected with traverse, have been canceled. Claims 7 and 10 have been canceled.

The claims remaining in the application are 1-6 and 26.

Applicants note that the rejection of claims 1-3, 6 and 10 under 35 USC 102(b) over Lee U.S. Patent No. 5,690,749 has been withdrawn.

Applicants also note that the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Lee and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0189635 to Bodet et al. has been withdrawn.

Further, the anticipation rejection of claims 1-6 over Dussault et al. has likewise been withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent document 3-261142. Basically, the Examiner contends that Applicants' invention is shown because the sacrificial coating of water on the substrate is

formed into ice which is considered to be a strippable film and that the particulate matter is caught in the ice and is removed from the substrate surface.

Claim 1 has been amended to define the sacrificial coating as a curable polymer and it is respectfully submitted that the claims are properly allowable over the Japanese Patent document. Basis for the amendments may be found for example on page 5, the paragraph beginning at line 10.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10 and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,962,776 to Liu et al. Liu et al. is cited as disclosing a cleaning process utilizing the effect of surface tension forces (4) and phase changes between a liquid and a gas. The process utilizes a cleaning fluid (52) which is applied to the surface of the article (49) to be cleaned. The fluid being subsequently frozen on the surface, thereby reducing the adhesion force between the surface of the article and undesired particulates. The surface of the article (49) is subsequently heated and the undesired particulate matter is removed through the medium of the cleaning fluid (52).

It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are properly allowable over Liu et al. as discussed for the Japanese document.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee and U.S. Patent No. 5,120,369 to Malotky. Lee is cited as disclosing a tape and the Examiner acknowledges that Lee does not disclose the material is formed into a strippable film after application. Malotky explicitly discloses that the film is applied and is made strippable after application. The Examiner concludes that the artisan would have been motivated to make the instant combination for the reasons set forth in

Malotky, namely, "so that the polymer coating tightly adheres to the surface to be cleaned and decontaminated, so that intimate contact occurs allowing for substantial absorption and/or dissolution of the toxic chemical agent." Col. 2, line 20, et seq.

Lee merely removes particles by attachment of the particles to an adhesive layer on the tape. Malotky does disclose the use of a polymer film system but it is clear that it does not remove particles from the surface, but is removing toxic or hazardous chemicals from the surface using a polymer that takes up the undesirable material by solution, absorption, or adsorption. Neither patent shows the use of energy to dislodge the particles into a fluid curable polymer and then forming the fluid curable polymer into a cured polymer strippable film which is removed as a strippable film with encased contaminant particles.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, Applicants' attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned to clarify any issue and/or to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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